

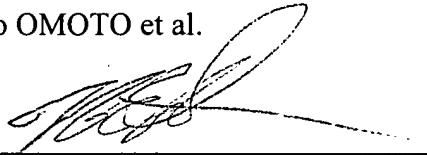
**REMARKS**

The present Preliminary Amendment is submitted to delete the multiple dependency of the claims, thereby placing such claims in condition for examination and reducing the required PTO filing fee and to make minor editorial changes.

Respectfully submitted,

Setsuo OMOTO et al.

By



Nils E. Pedersen  
Registration No. 33,145  
Attorney for Applicants

NEP/krp  
Washington, D.C. 20006-1021  
Telephone (202) 721-8200  
Facsimile (202) 721-8250  
September 30, 2004